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BOOK REVIEWS.

Perhaps to the fact that Edwin Pears, LL.B., late President of the European Bar at Constantinople, made his residence in that city for years, is due the magnificent volume entitled "The Fall of Constantinople; Being the Story of the Fourth Crusade," published in this country by Harper & Brothers. Living among the descendants of those people, who "fought continuously and, in the main, successfully, for one hundred and fifty years against the force of Asia, and spending their strength partly in the struggle and partly in educating the races which had flowed into the empire, were only unable to defend themselves when struck in the rear," he had doubtless caught the enthusiasm, perhaps the very patriotism which must still dwell in the breasts of those to whom their history is as proudly dear as that of any nation to its people; and was urged, by the exceptional outlook which his position gave him, to call attention to the political aspect of the question in view.

A controversy as old as the Crusade itself has been waged for centuries, over the conduct of the various leaders in this great movement, and no end of books have been written putting in no measured terms, the theories and opinions of their great and learned authors. President Pears has not disdained to refer to these, nor to consult the pages of those eminent writers who could cast any light on so important a topic. But the object of his work has been to show, while telling in graphic language the interesting narrative of one of the epochs of history most dramatically enlivening the thirteenth century, that the conquest of Constantinople was the first great blunder committed by the West in dealing with the Eastern question, and that out of it have arisen those complications and changes which even to this day agitate the political centers of Europe. The true dispute, the root of the whole matter, is in fact simply this: Shall Asiatic influence and Asiatic religion be tolerated in Europe? Whether or no, the Turks and their "heathenish" faith shall be crushed out, is the deeper meaning of the continual harassment which has gone on for centuries. In the opinion of Mr. Pears, the results of the Fourth Crusade upon European civilization were altogether disastrous. The hardness, the narrowness and the Hebraicism of Western civilization were left to develop themselves with little admixture from the joyousness and beauty of Greek life. If we would understand the full significance of the Latin Conquest, we must try to imagine what would now have been the cultivation of Western Europe if the Romans of six centuries ago had not been destroyed! "One may picture not only the Black Sea, the Bosphorus, and the Marmora surrounded by progressive and civilized nations, but even the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean given back again to good government and a religion which is not a barrier to progress." The superb manner in which the house of Harper have gotten out this valuable addition to historical lore, again places them on their standard level of excellence, from which they so seldom depart. Especially the beautiful clarity of the type and the charming little sidenotes, make the work readable in the extreme.

"THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY" for April will contain the first of a series of articles by Hon. David A. Wells on "An Economic Study of Mexico." Besides being the best-prepared man, perhaps, in the country to deal with this subject, by his thorough familiarity with the principles of financial science, Mr. Wells has especially qualified himself for treating it by investigating the character and resources of the country, the peculiarities of its people, and the state of its institutions, through careful and comprehensive observations made during a residence there under very favorable circumstances. He throws a great deal of new light upon the subject, and shows that Americans generally are about as familiar with the social life of their neighbors, the Mexicans, as they are with the inhabitants of Madagascar.

"RUHAINAH," (pronounced Ru-hain-ah) a story of Afghan life, by Evan Stanton, which Messrs. Cassell & Company will publish this month, is written by a well-known Orientalist, who has resided among the Afghan people for many years. An old writer, but a new novelist. Almost every incident in the narrative is founded on fact; and the little volume, while it contains an exciting love-story, full of the most graphic incidents, gives the most trustworthy details of the religion, the manners, and the social customs of that remarkable race who, in the days of Mahmud of Ghaznee, conquered Hindustan, and who, in more recent times, have successfully resisted the invading armies of Great Britain. A people, who believing themselves to be the children of Israel, and possessing, as they do, the vigor and prowess of a manly race, are in the opinion of the author yet destined to play an important part in the world's history.

"THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY" for April opens with a paper on Gouverneur Morris by Henry Cabot Lodge, which will be found of much interest. A short story by Sarah Orne Jewett, entitled "The Dulham Ladies," is also a pleasant feature of the number, and with Mr. James' and Miss Murfree's serials furnishes its fiction. Two important papers, one on "Responsible Government under the Constitution," by Woodrow Wilson, author of "Congressional Government," the other, "Reformation of Charity," by D. O. Kellogg, will be of interest to thoughtful readers. Julian Hawthorne contributes a paper on the "Problems of the Scarlet Letter," and this, with an article on "Children, Past and Present," by Agnes Repplier, and "Shylock vs. Antonio; A Brief for Plaintiff on Appeal," by Charles Henry Phelps, comprises the chief contents of the number. There is a poem by Mr. Whittier, called "Revelation," and some other verses by Andrew Hedbrook and A. M. Libby; also criticisms of recent historical works under the title of "Historical Methods," and of some new French books of illustrations. The usual departments close a most agreeable instalment of this standard magazine. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

SPEAKING of the work of the Associated Artists, Mr. Koehler gives the following in the April *Magazine of Art*:

"The method of executing these tapestries—which, as well as the material upon which they are worked, is covered by letters patent in the United States and in England—is simple

enough in theory. Upon heavy silk canvas of a rather coarse and loose texture the design is produced, or woven, as it were, by introducing threads of the necessary colors either along the warp or the weft, as the case may be. The silk canvas which serves as a basis—especially made for the purpose by the Messrs. Cheney, the American silk manufacturers—is in itself very beautiful; and, as the warp and the weft are usually of different colors, develops a play of changing tints, which, aided by the rich gloss of the silk, gives a life not to be otherwise attained. As the color of the ground can never be wholly suppressed, it is easily seen that it fixes the keynote of the scale to be employed, and thus keeps the artist within certain decorative bounds, however pronounced may be his or her tendency towards realism. This is an important point, for although these works of the needle, as was stated above, may be said to have an aim of their own, they must always remain a means of decoration, and the wholesome restriction noted will tend to prevent their trying to dominate for their own sake. Within these bounds, however, the facilities which the new method offers to the artist are astonishingly great. The delicacy of gradation that can be obtained by the introduction of threads, either of one color or of several colors twisted together, is quite extraordinary; and as metal threads can also be employed, while high lights or an especial emphasis of color can be forced, if need be, by calling in the aid of actual embroidery, it is evident that the means at the command of the artist are sufficiently varied. As a practical advantage of these tapestries, it is worth noting that they are absolutely moth-proof, as nothing but silk, and occasionally threads of gold and silver, enter into their composition."

The March 6th issue of *Building* contains the second paper on "Slow-Burning Construction," by W. H. Dabney, Jr., architect to the Mutual Factory Fire Insurance Companies, of Boston; the continuation of Mr. Warren R. Briggs' excellent series of articles on "The Planning and Construction of School Houses," with plans and perspectives of a model suburban school. Mr. Wm. B. Tuthill, architect, continues the discussion, in his articles, on the "City Residence, its Design and Construction," of various plans for apartment houses, including what is known as the Duplex System. Various plans of apartment houses are given in the text. Mr. J. Pickering Putnam, well known through his "Lectures on the Principles of House Drainage," speaks of the necessity of thorough ventilation for soil pipes and waste pipes, and of the evils and objections to special trap ventilation, in his article on "Improved Plumbing Appliances." There is also an illustrated article on the Street Memorial in the Royal Courts of Justice, London, a Book Review Department, the Weekly Report on the Real Estate Market, a trade supplement reviewing the industrial progress, and a four-page supplement of the Building News of the week, besides editorial comments on the topics of the day. In the illustrations, sketches are given for small laborers' cottages, for a country church, details of a staircase hall for a city house, finished in oak, and the perspective view and plans of the new club-house for the Elmira Athletic Association.

MESSRS. TICKNOR & COMPANY have published: "The Prelate," by Isaac Henderson, 1 vol. 12mo.; richly bound; \$1.50. A story of the American colony and native society in Rome. The covers of "The Prelate" are embellished with brilliant and attractive emblematic designs, made especially for this book by Elihu Vedder, the celebrated artist.

"THE SPHINX'S CHILDREN: AND OTHER PEOPLE'S," by Rose Terry Cooke, author of "Somebody's Neighbors," etc.; 1 vol. 12mo.; \$1.50. A volume of short stories reprinted from the author's contributions to the *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The Galaxy*, etc.

"A STROLL WITH KEATS," by Frances Clifford Brown; 1 vol. square 16mo.; illustrated; full gilt; \$1.50. One of the choicest gems of art in illustration, consisting of illuminated pages, in beautiful designs, illustrating some of the finest verses of the great English poet.

"ARTISTIC HOMES: IN CITY AND COUNTRY," by Albert W. Fuller, architect; oblong folio; third edition, revised, enlarged, and improved; 76 full-page illustrations, many of which are from gelatine, supplanting designs discarded from the earlier editions. Also, one colored plate; \$4.50.

CASSELL & Co. continue to publish their *Weekly National Library*, the volumes retaining their interesting and useful character. The products of the past month have been: "The Man of Feeling," by Henry MacKenzie; "The Complete Angler," by Isaac Walton; "Sermons on the Card," by Hugh Latimer; "Lives of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar," by Plutarch.

"HARPER'S MAGAZINE" for April is a very excellent number, with an exceptionally noticeable list of articles and illustrations. "Their Pilgrimage," by Charles Dudley Warner, gives an opportunity for introducing a number of C. S. Reinhart's admirable sketches, true in every line to the scenes they represent at Fortress Monroe and Cape May. An interesting article is that by Phil Robinson, although its title is rather effeminate, "Going Down to the Sea in Ships," tracing the history of ships in an anecdotal way that makes very pleasant reading. The illustrations, by Waud, represent many of the ships that have become famous, the Argo, the Bucentaur, and others. "Neapolitan Sketches," "King Arthur," "Spring-haven," and "She Stoops to Conquer," are among the other contributions. The most noticeable article, probably, is that on "Plebeian and Aristocratic Pigeons," illustrated by W. Hamilton Gibson. It is not noticeable on account of any literary merit, for the subject does not admit of much elaboration of that sort, but principally from the remarkably fine drawings, and the fact that they were engraved by the photo-process, giving commendable boom to mechanical art for the engraving is certainly worthy of the drawings. Another interesting feature not so generally understood, is that the article in question anticipates by a month or two a similar one prepared for another prominent magazine. The "Editor's Easy Chair" and "Editor's Drawer" are, as usual, bright and readable; the "Editor's Study" is also as usual—unreadable.

"INDIAN SUMMER" is the title of a new volume by W. D.

Howells, and which partakes of the usual harmless village talk of this writer (TICKNOR & COMPANY, Boston).

Vanes, or fanes, as weathercocks used to be called, have been in use for several centuries. They are to be seen on the plain, humble bell-cot of wood or stone on the gables of small rural churches, as well as on the proud spires of the grandest ecclesiastical fabrics, and on the most considerable of our public and private buildings. In describing the village of Grand Pré, in Acadia, Longfellow mentions them more than once as contributing to its picturesque appearance.

In France they are called *girouettes*. French antiquaries tell us they were formerly counted a sign of nobility, and only gentlefolk were allowed to place them on their dwellings. A certain rank required a certain form of *girouette*. The chevalier placed a pennon-shaped vane on some conspicuous part of his residence, while the chevalier banneret was allowed to use a square one, like a banner. They became in this way vehicles for heraldic display. One of the first acts of a *seigneur*, on becoming possessed of a building, was to place his banner upon the summit of it, and it evidently became the custom to make vanes display a similar token of ownership. Sometimes the crest of the owner was painted upon them, and sometimes cut out of them, leaving a perforation of the desired outline.—*The Quiver*.

BECK'S JOURNAL OF DECORATIVE ART is an international publication, inasmuch as it appears simultaneously in Manchester, England, and New York, in the former place as it was wont to appear under the name of Messrs. W. Sutherland & Son, and in New York under the name of Fr. Beck & Co., the well-known firm of wall paper and linocut Walton. The Journal is well made up and neatly printed, profuse in illustrations and designs, and contains many well-written and useful articles. There is a series of descriptive articles on Eaton Hall, with illustrations, showing the decorations of the place; there are various supplements, principally devoted to designs of wall paper. The American edition contains several pages more than the English edition, these pages being filled by designs from Edward Dawson, R. Guastamio, and other well-known and finished artists. Mr. John Michel, who is the American editor and business manager, has done admirably.

THE MAGAZINE OF ART for March contains a variety of interesting and artistic material in both illustrations and articles, rather ahead, we think, even of its usual perfection. The leading article, "The Tiber: Ostia to Bagnorea," is well written, and traces a mite that is familiar to most travelers, and therefore more enjoyable reading. The description of unknown and out-of-the-way regions, while they are read by us with absorbing interest; possibly, they merely gratify the disposition in every educated human mind for novelty, but in their strangeness fail to recall any incident that has with it a pleasant association, and fail to appeal to our imagination, our fancy, and, above all, to our memory. The sketches accompanying this article on the Tiber are explanatory and well executed. An ink-pot of Miss Farrer, painted by Lawrence, engraved by Bartolozzi, forms a frontispiece, and is pleasantly explained in a biographical sketch of half a page. An essay on "Cheats," by that prolific writer on kindred subjects, J. Hungerford Pollen, is handsomely illustrated, and gives some information. A review of Diane de Poitiers is excellent, she whose portrait may be studied in the Chénay Palace, and who wielded for so many years the power behind the throne of Henry II. Persian Art and a few other desultory pieces complete this fine number.

"LES LETTRES ET LES ARTS," an illustrated review. Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons take pleasure in announcing that they have made arrangements with Messrs. Boussoad, Valadon & Company (successors of Goupil & Company) for the exclusive publication in the United States and Canada of *Les Lettres et les Arts*, which will be supplied to American subscribers simultaneously with its appearance in Paris.

Commencing with January, 1886, the *Review* will appear in monthly parts of 180 to 150 pages each, royal quarto. Printed on paper of the finest quality from new and beautiful type (caracteres Didot), it will form, annually, four magnificently illustrated volumes worthy of a place in the library of every book lover.

The *Review* will be devoted chiefly to literature, art and history, and will be under the editorial charge of M. Anatole France.

As literary articles it will offer novels and tales, poems, literary and dramatic studies and fantasies, biographies of authors, etc. An important place will be reserved in each number for studies of the fine arts and the industrial arts of our own time as well as of the past. History will be represented by narratives and portraits; political, diplomatic or military reminiscences; extracts from unpublished memoirs and notes on public life in France and other countries.

In addition, the *Review* will contain a variety of articles on scientific questions, travels and discoveries, and the public men and things which especially occupy popular attention at the moment.

Finally, it will give in each monthly part a hitherto unpublished musical composition.

Messrs. Boussoad, Valadon & Company have secured the co-operation of the most eminent artists and those who stand highest in public favor. As to the execution of the plates, the variety and perfection of the processes which the publishers have at their command, enable them to guarantee that it will be in every way irreproachable.

Les Lettres et les Arts will be supplied only to subscribers, and at the uniform price of \$72 per year. No subscription will be received for less than one year, and the *Review* will be sent until notice of discontinuance of the subscription is received by the publishers.

Subscribers will be supplied, at a cost of \$5, with a removable cover, designed for holding the current number, made of levant morocco, richly ornamented and lettered in gold. Charles Scribner's Sons, publishers, 743 and 745 Broadway, New York.